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2 March 1977

JFK ACT 7-17-97 RELEASE

MEMORANDUM FOR: Douglas T. Cummins
OLC

FROM : Maurice A. Sovern
O/SA/DO/O

SUBJECT : Department of Justice Inquiry
Martin Luther King, Jr. Task
Force

REFERENCE : OGC Letter, DOJ, Same Subject,
14 December 1976 (attached)

1. As recently noted in the press, the Department of Justice has made public the results of the inquiry by a Task Force of the Office of Professional Responsibility of the Department of Justice. The Task Force reviewed CIA materials on the extent and nature of the FBI/CIA contacts concerning the Reverend King.

2. On 17 December 1976, a five member security-cleared team from the Department of Justice, consisting of Messrs. Fred G. Folson, Task Force Leader, Joseph F. Gross, James R. Kieckhefer, James F. Walker and William D. White, reviewed the DDO and DDA/OS material.

3. In conversation with the OGC (Jameson), we are advised that no further use is required for our material by the Department of Justice.

4. We recognize that despite its public tribulation, the House Select Committee on assassinations has been created and will most likely want to review material in CIA files on both the Kennedy and King assassinations.

5. In conversation with Mr. Cummins of OLC and Mr. John Leader of the IG Staff, it was agreed that we would continue to hold the sanitized King material which was prepared for the Justice investigation for possible eventual review by

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investigators from the House Select Committee on Assassinations. It is recognized, however, that this material will be rereviewed prior to our making it available to any cleared House investigators. It is also noted for the record that much of the King material in our file is FBI material on loan to this Agency; therefore, further coordination with the owning agency would have to be accomplished before non-CIA access to the material is permitted.

Maurice A. Sovern

Attachment

O/SA/DO/O:MASovern:kaw (1542)

Distribution
Original & 1 - OLC
1 - OGC
1 - OS/SAG
1 - C/ISS/IP
2 - SA/DO/O

3 January 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM : Wm. George Jameson
Office of General Counsel

SUBJECT: Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Department of Justice Task Force

1. On Friday, 17 December 1976, the Director of the King Task Force, Fred G. Folsom, came to the Agency with four attorneys from his staff to review materials they thought might be relevant to their inquiry. Also in attendance were Maurice Sovern (DDO), Steve Hunt (OS/SAG), and Eva Saplak and the undersigned from OGC.

2. At the outset a slight problem arose as to what authority the Task Force members had to view materials held by CIA, but originating at FBI. While the DDO position was that FBI approval would be required before their documents could be shown by CIA to Justice, Mr. Folsom said that he had advance authorization - unwritten - to view such materials. While he had previously indicated a willingness to have a call placed that morning to confirm such authority, nobody requested it and some FBI documents were shown to the Task Force members.

3. Apparently, however, DDO was disturbed that no written authorization was provided, because I received a phone call to that effect.

4. Another potential problem arose at the last minute when DDO informed me that its own documents should be sanitized before Justice representatives should be permitted to view them. Since Justice did not object, however, a crisis was averted.

5. After the Task Force members viewed the available documents, their notes were xeroxed and copies retained by this Office. At that time Mr. Folsom stated that he saw no reason for them to require that copies of the documents be sent to Justice, since the material held by CIA is not particularly helpful to its inquiry.

Wm. George Jameson

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